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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Expected Attack - Milliyet
A Bomb to Intimidate - Hurriyet
Message Delivered With A Bomb - Sabah
PM Erdogan Meets With TGS Chief Ozkok - Hurriyet
Gul to Zebari: We Prevented a Massacre of Kurds -
Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

Warning to Turkey - Cumhuriyet
Surprise Meeting between Erdogan and Ozkok - Cumhuriyet
Provocations Begin in Iraq - Radikal
A Message from FM Gul to the Kurds - Radikal
Gul: "Saddam proposed that the Kurds be Slaughtered" -
Radikal
Edelman: "Turkish Troops to Establish Security in Iraq"
- Zaman
Turkish Troops May Not be Sent to Iraq - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Attack Against Turkish Embassy in Baghdad: All papers
and TV channels give extensive coverage to yesterday's
suicide attack against the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad.
"Hurriyet" draws attention to the fact that the attack
came only one week after the parliament's decision to
authorize a troop deployment in Iraq. All papers
report that a suicide bomber attacked the embassy in a
car loaded with explosives. The attacker died and nine
others were injured, including Turkish embassy
officials. All papers agree that the attack was a
warning to Turkey not to send troops to Iraq. The
Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the attack in a
statement that reiterated the seriousness of the
security situation in Iraq.

FM Gul Responds to Zebari's Comments on Turkish Troop
Deployment: Most papers today report on FM Gul's
response to Iraqi FM Zebari's comments that Iraqis are
against the deployment of troops from neighboring
countries. Gul said that Turkey has 'no secret
intentions' in Iraq. 'If we had a secret agenda,' Gul
continued, 'we would have accepted Saddam's proposal to
massacre the Kurds.' "Zaman" notes that Saddam's offer
had been conveyed frequently to Turkish officials by
Iraqi Deputy PM Tarik Aziz in bilateral contacts with
Turkey.

Ambassador Edelman Visits Turkey-US Friendship Group in
Parliament: Ambassador Edelman attended a lunch
yesterday in honor of the Turkish-American Friendship
Group. The lunch was hosted by the group's chairman,
AKP deputy Egemen Bagis. "Milliyet" draws attention to
the Ambassador's comments that Turkish troops could
help to establish security in Iraq while also
contributing to humanitarian operations. The
Ambassador reportedly stressed Turkey's long experience
in peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts in Kosovo,

Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Afghanistan.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"The Iraq Reality"

Zafer Atay commented in the economic-political Dunya (10/15): "Since the 1950s, all of Turkey's foreign troop mission have been backed by either NATO or the UN. This time, the Turkish military mission to Iraq will be carried out under a bilateral framework agreement with the US. Within this framework, the debate over the necessity of an IGC invitation or another UNSC resolution is irrelevant. Believing that Turkey will not be viewed as an occupation force but only as a force to protect peace and stability is nothing but wishful thinking. Let's face it -- all foreign troops are considered part of the occupation force by the majority of Iraqis. Peace and security cannot be preserved there, because there is none. . The possible areas of responsibility for Turkish forces are not very encouraging, because all of them are places with high risk. . Having said that, we also have to face another reality. This time, Ankara did not have the chance to say no to Washington. Leaving aside the 8.5 billion dollar credit, Turkey must be present in Iraq because of the issues of PKK terrorism and the Kurdish groups in the north. Turkey should be in a position to make a hard bargain with the US about its military contribution. That is the best Turkey can do under the current circumstances."

"Will Ankara Step Back?"

Murat Yetkin analyzed in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (10/15): "After the terrorist attack against the Turkish embassy in Baghdad, the question of the day has become whether or not Turkey will still send troops to Iraq. American officials condemned the attack, and noted that it highlighted once again the gravity of the security and stability issues in Baghdad. . On Turkey's role in Iraq, the US goes no further than some generally positive remarks about the Turkish parliament's authorization for the deployment. The Turkish Ambassador in Washington had some important meetings with US officials on that issue, and he underlined that Turkey expects the US to convince the IGC about the necessity of Turkish troops and to take some tangible steps in the fight against the PKK/KADEK. . Recently, the Turkish MFA gave this same message to US Ambassador Edelman in Ankara. . The US hesitation on this issue might be explained by a number of factors: the fact that the approval of the decree for sending troops came faster than the US had expected; the rise in terrorist attacks in Iraq; Kurdish efforts to oppose the deployment of Turkish troops even if this would result in a confrontation with the US. However, the ongoing uncertainty has a negative impact on Turkey's decision-making process. The recent attack in Baghdad and possible new attacks will certainly put more pressure on the government. . Turkey has done its part. Now it is the US that stands at a turning point. The US must act quickly. It must prove that the fight against terrorism is not just rhetoric intended to legitimize American global interests."

EDELMAN